

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
SMS-01 OES-09 ACDA-12 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-07
AGRE-00 /122 W

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R 121553Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6700
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 21840

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SP, UR
SUBJECT: SPANISH-SOVIET EVENTS IN COMING MONTHS

SUMMARY: GIVEN THE PAUCITY OF SPANISH-SOVIET CON-
TACTS ON THE OFFICIAL LEVEL SINCE THE CIVIL WAR,
THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS THIS FALL IS NOTEWORTHY.
THE SPANISH HEALTH MINISTER IS CURRENTLY IN THE
SOVIET UNION, SCHEDULED TO REACH MOSCOW FROM ALMA
ATA IN A FEW DAYS. A CABINET MINISTER WILL PROBABLY
OPEN THE SPANISH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT PLANNED HERE
IN NOVEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA WILL BE PAYING
A VISIT THIS FALL BUT THE DATE REMAINS TO BE SET.
OF COURSE THE SOVIETS ARE DEALING WITH THE GOS AS
THEY DEAL WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS -- ON SEVERAL
LEVELS: THE SPANISH EMBASSY INDICATES THE SOVIETS
ARE NOT PUSHING THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT SPAIN'S
POSSIBLE EC AND NATO MEMBERSHIP IN OFFICIAL CON-
TACTS, BUT THE SOVIET PRESS CARRIES PERIODIC
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WARNINGS ABOUT THE DIRE CONSEQUENCES THESE
DECISIONS WOULD HAVE. THE SOVIETS RECENTLY HOSTED
TWO PCE DELEGATIONS BUT ALSO CONTINUE TO DEVOTE
UNUSUAL ATTENTION TO THE SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY
(PSOE) AND -- JUDGING FROM RECENT PRESS COMMENT --
WANT IT TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMUNISTS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THE SPANISH EMBASSY THAT THE MINISTER OF HEALTH ARRIVED SEVERAL DAYS AGO TO ATTEND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE NOW UNDER WAY IN ALMA ATA. THE VISIT REPORTEDLY MARKS THE FIRST BY A SPANISH GOVERNMENT MINISTER SINCE RELATIONS WERE SEVERED SOME FORTY YEARS AGO. THE SPANISH DESK OFFICER AT MFA, AFTER NOTING THAT A SOVIET MINISTER ALSO VISITED SPAIN LAST MARCH, DESCRIBED THE HEALTH MINISTER'S VISIT AS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING FULLY NORMAL RELATIONS. WHEN THE MINISTER IN A FEW DAYS REACHES MOSCOW ENROUTE HOME (VIA A STOP-OVER IN KIEV), HE WILL APPARENTLY BE RECEIVED BY SOVIET OFFICIALS.

2. AS REPORTED EARLIER FROM MADRID (MADRID 01549), A VISIT BY THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER THIS FALL IS ALSO EXPECTED, ALTHOUGH DATE HAS STILL NOT BEEN FIXED. ACCORDING TO THE SPANISH EMBASSY, SEVERAL AGREEMENTS WILL BE INITIALED OR SIGNED DURING THE VISIT, INCLUDING A CULTURAL AGREEMENT (INITIALED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO) AND A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT, NOW IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION. A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY IS ALSO IN THE WORKS. (THE SOVIETS SAY A FISHERIES AGREEMENT IS BEING NEGOTIATED, BUT THE SPANISH INDICATE THAT NO DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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CUSSIONS ARE BEING CARRIED ON AT PRESENT ALTHOUGH THEY WERE LAST YEAR.)

3. A SPANISH INDUSTRIAL EXHIBIT IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN MOSCOW IN NOVEMBER, POSSIBLY WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS' FOREIGN TRADE MINISTERS. OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN ATTACH THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO BOOSTING TRADE; TOTAL TURNOVER LAST YEAR AMOUNTED TO ONLY 228 MILLION RUBLES, VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS IN 1976, AND TRADE THROUGH THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1978 -- REFLECTING A DECLINE IN SOVIET EXPORTS -- IS DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST YEAR. ACCORDING TO THE SPANISH EMBASSY, THE SOVIETS TWO WEEKS AGO SIGNED A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE ELEVEN TRAWLERS, AND THERE IS HOPE (EXPRESSED TO US BY SPANISH DCM) THAT A "HUNDRED MORE" MIGHT BE ORDERED IF RELATIONS CONTINUE TO DEVELOP NORMALLY.

4. JUDGING FROM COMMENTS MADE BY SPANISH DIPLOMATS, THE SOVIETS ARE NOT AGGRESSIVELY TOUTING THEIR LINE ON SPAIN'S POSSIBLE MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMON MARKET

AND NATO IN OFFICIAL CONTACTS. THE SUBJECT HARDLY COMES UP IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SPANISH EMBOFFS. SIMILARLY, IN A RECENT DISCUSSION WITH A U.S. EMBOFF, THE SOVIET DESK OFFICER BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO BE LOW-KEY IN DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT, MENTIONING THE SOVIET AVERSION TO "CLOSED ECONOMIC GROUPINGS" AND "ANY ENLARGEMENT OF EXISTING MILITARY BLOCS", BUT HASTENING TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THESE ARE "INTERNAL MATTERS FOR THE SPANISH PEOPLE TO DECIDE".

5. OBVIOUSLY THE SOVIETS CALCULATE IT IS MORE PRODUCTIVE AT THIS STAGE IN THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS

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TO LET THEIR MEDIA DELIVER THE MESSAGE. IZVESTIYA AUGUST 9 CARRIED A LENGTHY COMMENTARY (A CO-AUTHOR WAS THE FAIRLY AUTHORITATIVE JOURNALIST BOVIN) WARNING SPAIN ON THE CONSEQUENCES FOR SPAIN OF BOTH MEMBERSHIPS. SIMILAR WARNINGS HAVE APPEARED SINCE, MOST RECENTLY IN THE SEPTEMBER 7 AGRICULTURAL LIFE DAILY. ACCORDING TO THE LATTER, EC MEMBERSHIP WOULD ONLY EXACERBATE DIFFICULTIES FOR THE SPANISH ECONOMY, SINCE IT IS NOT "USED TO THE DRAUGHTS OF COMPETITION" IN THE COMMON MARKET, AND SPAIN WILL UNAVOIDABLY EXPERIENCE HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT, RISING LANDLESSNESS AMONG SMALL FARMERS, ETC. NATO MEMBERSHIP IS ALSO DESCRIBED AS PROVIDING NO

ADVANTAGES AND WOULD "PREVENT SPAIN FROM CONDUCTING A BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY, COMPLICATE ITS RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED STATES, INTENSIFY TENSION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND EUROPE AS A WHOLE".

6. THE SOVIETS CONTINUE ACTIVELY TO CULTIVATE THE
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SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY (PSOE), AT TIMES OVER-SHADOWING THE FORMAL TIES THE CPSU HAS WITH THE PCE. A PSOE DELEGATION HEADED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, PARTY SECRETARY GALEOTE (PHONETIC) TRAVELED AROUND THE SOVIET UNION AUGUST 10-20, OCCASIONING A COMMUNIQUE-LIKE TASS ITEM REPORTING A PSOE FINDING OF A "COINCIDENCE OF POSITIONS BETWEEN PSOE AND CPSU" ON QUESTIONS OF DETENTE, SECURITY, COOPERATION AND BILATERAL TIES. THE SPANISH EMBASSY TELLS US THE DELEGATES RECEIVED RED-CARPET TREATMENT AT EVERY STOP. TWO PCE DELEGATIONS VISITED THE SOVIET UNION OVER THE SUMMER, HEADED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER COMACHO IN ONE CASE AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ROYO IN ANOTHER, BUT THE SOVIET MEDIA DID NOT CHARACTERIZE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE OCCURRED DURING EITHER VISIT. SOVIET PRESS HAS NOT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, REPORTED CARRILLO'S RECENT TRAVELS OR LA PASIONARIA'S CURRENT STAY IN MOSCOW.

7. SOVIET MEDIA NONETHELESS SEEM TO BE COUNSELLING THE PSOE AND THE COMMUNISTS TO WORK TOGETHER. A SIGNED COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA AUGUST 31 OBSERVES THAT THE PSOE IS RESISTING ANY IDEA OF PARTICIPATING IN A COALITION, BUT GOES ON TO CREDIT THE COMMUNISTS WITH REALIZING THAT A POLICY "OF AGREEMENT OR COOPERATION IN CARRYING OUT A SET POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRAM" REMAINS ESSENTIAL IN PRESENT CONDITIONS IN SPAIN. THE "UNOFFICIAL" SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY WEEKLY NOVOYE VREMYA (WHICH CIRCULATES IN SPAIN IN A SPANISH EDITION) PUT IT MORE DIRECTLY IN A SEPTEMBER 1 COMMENTARY ON MADRID CITY ELECTIONS: "UNFORTUNATELY PSOE AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY WILL
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PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS SEPARATELY", WHICH
"GIVES FEW CHANCES FOR SUCCESS TO THEIR CANDIDATES. . ."

8. MOSCOW SOURCES CONFIRM THAT FIRST EUROPEAN
DIVISION CHIEF YURI DUBININ IS BOUND FOR MADRID
AS AMBASSADOR (MADRID 09196). DUBININ HEADED THE
MFA GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATING THE REESTAB-
LISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SPAIN IN
EARLY 1977. GARRISON

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